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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Burning of the Town of Inniskilling *in* Ireland. *Her Majesties Brieve for the same. A short History of the Great and Glorious Actions of the* Inniskillingers. *Reasons why the* English *should Contribute largely towards their Relief.*

From Wednesday February the 13th, to Saturday February the 16th, 1706.

Obs. HOneſt *Country-man*, we muſt Poſtpone our intended Diſcourſe on the 30th of *January*, having a Subject more material, and which will not admit of delay. The Town of *Inniſkilling* in *Ireland*, by a *Dreadful Conflagration*, is Burnt to the Ground, and Her moſt Gracious Majeſty, taking into Her Royal Conſideration how much the Men of *Inniſkilling* Contributed to the *Revolution*, and their great Services on all Occaſions for the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, has been moſt Graciouſly pleaſed, by Her *Letters Pattents*, to grant them a *Brieve* all over *England*, for receiving the *Charity* of all *Well-diſpoſed* and *Charitable Chriſtians*, for the Relief of thoſe that ſuffer'd by that Fire. Now, Honeſt *Country-man*, I underſtand this *Brieve* is to be read the next *Lords-Day*: I wiſh I had more time to prepare the Minds of my Countrymen towards the Relief of Men ſo Eminently Serviceable to their Country; but, however, let us do all the Good we can, 'tis what God requires of us, and let us wiſh that we could do more. And, therefore, *Country-man*, ſpeak to your Neighbours, incite 'em to *Charity* in this Affair; 'tis but Spending a little Money the leſs on a *Market-Day*, and they will ſoon Reimburſe themſelves their Charges, and God will wonderfully Reward their *Charitable Diſpoſition*.

Country-m. Pray, Sir, tell me a few of the Brave Actions of theſe Men, of whom I have heard ſo much and remember ſo little, that I may tell the *Pariſhoners* of it.

Obſ. In the firſt Place I can tell thee, That I have been my ſelf an Eye-Witneſs of the Bravery of theſe Men, whoſe *Courage*, *Conduct*, and *Fidelity* to the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, and the *Good* of theſe *Kingdoms*, purchas'd 'em the Honour of being Headed and Led by the Beſt of *Princes*, and the moſt Couragious and Experienc'd of *Generals*, the Glorious and Immortal *WILLIAM*, at the *Boyne*.

The narrow Limits of our Diſcouſe will not allow room to relate at large all the *Glorious Actions* of theſe *Memorable Worthies*. I can draw their Pictures but in *Little*, and give you but a ſhort Abſtract of what they have done for the *Proteſtant Cauſe*; from whence we may gather what they may again do, if God, for the Abuſe of his Mercies, ſhould bring us under like Difficulties.

The Town of *Inniſkilling* has a long time been the *Palladium* of the *Proteſtants* in *Ireland*. I than't tell you of their Services in 41, being reſolved to confine my ſelf to an Account of their Services in 88 and 89.

In *December* 1688. *Tyrconnel*, that *Bloody Popiſh General*, knowing how well the Town of *Inniſkilling* had Succoured the *Proteſtants* in former *Rebellions*, ſent three Companies to Gariſon that Town, and Arms for a Troop of Horſe; but the Town ſhut their Gates againſt the *Iriſh*; and tho' they had then but fifty Arms in the Town, Sallied upon the Enemy, put them to Flight, and Diſarmed them; by which, and other means, having got more Arms, their Numbers encreaſed to 1600, and then, with a Bold and Generous Reſolution, they Unanimouſly agreed to ſtand by one another to the laſt Man, and to defend the Town to the laſt Extremity.

And to Evidence to the World that this Reſolution of theirs was Sincere, and that they did not fear the Powers of the Enemy, in the next Place they Proclaimed our Glorious Deliverer, the Prince of *Orange*, King of *England*, *Ireland*, &c. which ſo Incenſed the *Iriſh*, that immediately a Body of Regular Troops were brought againſt 'em, *viz.* 7000 Horſe and Dragoons, under the Command of the Duke of *Berwick*, a Natural Son of the late King *James*, who was Attack'd and Repuls'd, near the Town, in a Sharp Engagement, and retir'd in diſorder.

About this time the City of *Londonderry* was cloſely Beſieged, and in extream want of Proviſions, and other Neceſſaries for its Defence; the Men of *Inniſkilling* preſs'd the *Governour* and their *Commanders* in chief to March them thither, in order to Surprize the *Iriſh Camp*, and raiſe the Seige, which in all Probability they had done, tho' the *Iriſh Army*, as 'twas then reported, was 30000 ſtrong; but the *Governour* Conſidering that *Londonderry* was forty Miles diſtant from them, and that ſeveral Bodies of *Iriſh* were ordered to March againſt him; all which ſhowing Danger to their own Gariſon, he thought it not adviſable to March on that Project.

This Determination was very Providential, for in a few days after General *Sarsfeild* was ordered, with 50000 Men and ſufficient Artillery, to Attack the Town, which the *Governour* hearing of, he March'd with the Gariſon about 20 Miles, and met them, where, in a Reſolute and Deſperate Fight, they obtained a compleat and entire Victory, making a great Slaughter of the Enemy, and a long time Purſued *Sarsfeild*, he making a narrow Eſcape. In this Action they took four Pieces of Cannon, and all the Enemies Baggage; and what is moſt conſiderable, they kill'd and took more Priſoners than their whole Number amounted to, which was but 1200.

Scarce had the *Inniſkillingers* time to Refreſh themſelves after this Great and Brave Action, when they receiv'd an *Expreſs*, with Orders from the *Governour* to return to the Town, for that he had received Advice, that *Macarty*, and the Lord *Mount-Caſhell*, an Experienc'd Officer, had, ſome days before, left *Dublin* with a Choſen Detachment of 7000 Horſe, Foot and Dragoons, nine

Pieces

Pieces of Cannon, &c. and was in full March againſt the *Town*. Accordingly they March'd twenty Miles that Night without halting, and Arrived at *Inniſkilling* early the next Morning; and being drawn up on the *Green* with the greateſt Force they could make, they lay almoſt two Hours on their Arms to Refreſh themſelves, when with the greateſt Chearfulneſs, and without the leaſt Confuſion, they began their March againſt *Macarty*; their Number being at moſt but 1700, when that of the Enemy was 7000.

After they had March'd about 10 Miles, their advanced Guards met with a Regiment of the Enemies *Dragoons*, whom they Attack'd with ſuch Fury and Bravery, that the *Dragoons* were entirely Rou ed, and were Purſued with a great Slaughter to their Camp, which was about 17 Miles from *Inniſkilling*.

Animated with this Succeſs, they Unanimouſly reſolved to Attack the Enemy, be their Advantages and Numbers never ſo great; and ſo about five a Clock in the Evening they came cloſe to the Enemies Camp, where they were prepared, and moſt Advantagiouſly Poſted with nine Cannon, over a ſoft *Moraſs*, and but one narrow Defile for the *Horſe* to paſs over. *Macarty*'s Word was, *No Quarters*; and that of the *Inniſkillingers*, *No Popery*. When the Commanding Officer of the *Inniſkillingers* had view'd the Poſture and Number of the Enemy, he was for retiring to the *Town*, but the Gentlemen of the Country (who had not till then been Commanded by a Stranger) ſeem'd to diſpiſe his *Conduct*, and Unanimouſly began the Attack without his Orders.

But one *Horſe* at a time could paſs this Defile; the Enemy had *Cannon* planted upon it, which they did not Fire thrice, before *Laird Weir*, a Captain of *Horſe*, and ſome other Officers, charg'd up to the Mouth of the *Cannon*, Kill'd the *Gunners*, and were followed by their Men as faſt as they could paſs the Defile; their *Foot* Attacking at the ſame time entirely Routed the *Iriſh*; their *General* was Wounded and made Priſoner; 3000 were Kill'd and Drowned; 70 *Officers* were made Priſoners. So the *Inniſkilling Heroes* return'd to their *Gariſon* all in Red, with the Cloathing the Enemy had provided their Men for this *Expedition*, and brought with 'em all the Enemies *Cannon*, all their *Baggage*, and abundance of *Horſes* they had taken.

This Attack upon the Enemy was ſo great and ſurprizing, that as it is the Wonder of this, ſo it will hardly be Credited by future Ages, that ſo great a Slaughter ſhould be made on ſo great a Body with ſo few *Troops*, and that with the loſs of but one Captain, and ſeven Men Kill'd: But if what I Write comes under the Conſideration of Poſterity, they may believe me, Writing of things within Memory, are eaſily to be diſprov'd if falſe. And I could here launch out into a Melancholy Reflection on the hard Fate of thoſe that brought the *Revolution* to paſs, ſuffer'd ſo much for *It*, and received no Benefit by *It*. But *Vertue* is its own Reward.

The Account of this Brave Action was ſpread over all the Kingdom in a ſhort time, and ſo terrify'd the *Iriſh* Forces, that King *James*, then at *Dublin*, tho' 60 Miles diſtant from the place of Action, had his Guards doubled. The next thing they deſigned to attempt was the Relief of *Londonderry*; but that being Relieved by Sea in four Days after the Fight, put an end to that intended Enterprize.

A great many more of their Glorious Actions might be Enumerated, but time will not admit of it, as their Action againſt Colonel *Mr Donnel*, where they Kill'd 300 of his Men. As alſo their other Action againſt Colonel *Scot*, whom they took Priſoner with his whole Regiment. As alſo more particularly at the Battle of *Cavan*, where about eight Troops of *Inniskilling Horſe* and *Dragoons* did charge two Regiments of *Horſe* and one of *Dragoons*, under the Command of the Duke of *Berwick*; the Diſpute laſted above an Hour and a half in a Lane; at laſt with true *Courage* and *Cutting* they preſſed the Enemy ſo cloſe, that they were put to flight. The *Inniskillirgers* are not to be Parallel'd for Cutting with the Sword on *Horſe-Back*; their *Foot* are the beſt *Fowlers* in *Europe*; ſo that when they come to Engagement they never miſs their Mark, but every one Kills his Man.

Thus, *Country-man*, have I given you a Succinct Account of the Glorious Actions and great Services performed by the Men of *Inniskilling*, and of their great Loſs by a Dreadful Fire; which I have done that you may Animate your Neighbours and all your Acquaintance to the Relief of ſuch Eminent Perſons. 'Tis your Duty at all times to Relieve the Poor; but more eſpecially thoſe of the Houſhold of *Faith*, ſuch as have ventur'd Life and Limb in Defence of the *Proteſtant Religion*, and for the Preſervation of *Native Right* and *Property*.

Methinks I am loth to preſs this thing too far on *Engliſhmen*, who, I hope, have not forgot thoſe Inſtruments that ſav'd 'em from *Popery* and *Slavery*, when the Inſtances are freſh in Memory. But one thing I would not have them forget, that is, how many Millions the *Courage* and *Bravery* of theſe Men ſaved *England* by ſhortning the War in *Ireland*. A ſmall Gratuity in this Caſe, as a Recompence for ſo much *Vertue*, *Courage*, and *Bravery* is certainly our Duty. Our good Queen has done Her part towards it, let us do Ours; and we that are true Friends to the *Queen*, the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, and the *Proteſtant Succeſſion*, ought to be the more Liberal, becauſe the Partiſans of *High-Church* will contribute nothing in a Caſe of this Nature.

Country-m. Maſter, I'll give the *Inniskillingers* the worth of the beſt *Cow* I have. I will be an Example to our Pariſh. But, Maſter, do not the *Diſſenters* Read this Brieve in their *Churches?*

Obſ. They may do it if they pleaſe; there is no Law againſt it that I know of; and I am ſatisfied that the *Government* will not be diſpleaſed at any Peoples *Charity*.

Country-m. I'll tell ſome of them of it. The *Inniskillingers* will loſe a great deal if the *Diſſenters* don't Collect as well as the *Churchmen*. They have been preſerved by the *Courage* of theſe Men as well as we. By the *Revolution* they got the Fetters on their *Conſciences* Knock'd off, and ought *Gratefully* and *Charitably* to remember thoſe that did it. ---- Come, Maſter, here's a good Health to the People of *Inniskilling*, and may their Town be ſoon Rebuilt.

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